

HOUSE BILL 358

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2003 Regular Session
(3r0979)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Ways and Means/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs --

Introduced by **Delegates Bozman and Conway**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties - School Buses -**
3 **Length of Operation**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the length of time a school bus may be operated in certain
5 counties; ~~repealing the authority to operate a school bus longer than a certain~~
6 ~~number of years~~ providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
7 to the length of time a school bus may be operated in certain counties.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Education
10 Section 7-804
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1

Article - Education

2 7-804.

3 ~~{(a)}~~ (1) Unless EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
 4 SUBSECTION, UNLESS it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle
 5 safety standards, a conventional school bus may be operated for ~~{12}~~ 15 years.

6 (2) IN SOMERSET, WICOMICO, AND WORCESTER COUNTIES, UNLESS IT
 7 FAILS TO MEET THE APPLICABLE SCHOOL BUS AND MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY
 8 STANDARDS, A CONVENTIONAL SCHOOL BUS MAY BE OPERATED FOR 15 YEARS.

9 ~~{(b)}~~ Notwithstanding the 12-year limitation in subsection ~~(a)~~ (A)(1) of this
 10 section, a conventional school bus may be operated for additional years if:

11 (1) The bus is maintained under a preventive maintenance plan
 12 approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Automotive Safety
 13 Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police that includes an inspection at
 14 the end of the 12th year and a minimum of 2 inspections by the Motor Vehicle
 15 Administration each year thereafter;

16 (2) Any structural repairs to the bus necessitated by accident, metal
 17 fatigue, or any other cause are certified by an independent expert approved by the
 18 Motor Vehicle Administration to meet or exceed the manufacturer's original
 19 manufacturing standards;

20 (3) The bus is equipped with:

21 (i) The body originally placed on the bus chassis by the
 22 manufacturer;

23 (ii) An 8 light warning system;

24 (iii) A left side stop arm;

25 (iv) A fire-retardant driver's seat;

26 (v) Fire-retardant barriers in the case of a bus with a front engine;

27 AND

28 (vi) A fire-retardant rear seating area in the case of a bus with a
 29 rear engine; and

30 (4) The State Superintendent grants approval.}

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
 32 effect July 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of
 33 June 30, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
 34 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

